

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners Community Meeting Thursday, November 13, 2003

The Community meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, November 13, 2003, at 6:30 p.m., at New Providence Baptist Church, 18221 Plymouth, Detroit, MI 48228

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Willie E. Hampton **(ABS)**
Arthur Blackwell, II
Erminia Ramirez
Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Megan Norris **(ABS)**

Department Personnel Present

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings
AC Harold Cureton
DC Campbell
Cmdr. Hall
Cmdr. Kohls
Insp. Quinn
Insp. W. Martin
Insp. Cliff
Insp. Clarkston
Insp. Wells
Lt. R. Moore
Lt. R. Lawrence
Lt. Pitts
Sgt. Debbie Jackson
Sgt. James White
PO R.Griffin
PO E. Jarmons
PO W. Huggins
PO Mike Jafer
PO Bonden
PO Hunter

Department Personnel Present

PO Shelby
PO Amiren
PO James Watson
PO Irvette Reed

Audio Visual Team
Civilian DC Tara Dunlap
Dir. Elsie Scott

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Exec. Director
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator
Michelle McDonald, Community Affairs Coordinator
E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Marie Thornton
Mary Little
Mrs. Carolyn Chambers
Ronald Johnson
Sandra Hines
Mr. Cracchiolo
Reba Hawkins
Virginia Biggs
Rose Nybongo
Bernice Smith
Stephanie Young

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Blackwell called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:47 p.m.

Commissioner Ramirez read the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Police Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: **Comm. Vann** made the motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, November 6, 2003.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Comm. Blackwell commended Pastor Jennings who took this facility that was once the location of K-Marts and transferred it into a church. Not just for worship, which is so important but also making it available to the community.

RESOLUTION HONORING MRS. CAROLYN CHAMBERS

WHEREAS Mrs. Carolyn Chambers has been a resident in the city of Detroit for 25 years;

WHEREAS Mrs. Carolyn Chambers is the founding member of the Northwest Detroit Youth and Family Center; and

WHEREAS Mrs. Carolyn Chambers has demonstrate commitment to improving the city by investing her time as a member of the Grandmont # 1 Improvement Association; and

WHEREAS Mrs. Carolyn Chambers serves as the President of the Sixth Precinct Community Relations Council, as a Sixth Precinct delegate, and as the secretary of the B.U.O.Y. 6 (Business United with Officers and Youth) Organization; and

WHEREAS Mrs. Carolyn Chambers is an Executive Board Member in both the Northwest Detroit Weed and Seed Program, and the 14th Congressional Democratic District; and

WHEREAS Mrs. Chambers, in addition to the aforementioned activities, still finds time to hold an advisory position on the Property Control Unit Steering Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the generous spirit of Mrs. Carolyn Chambers. Her unselfishness and dedication to improving the quality of life for all citizens in her community and throughout the City of Detroit merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Mrs. Carolyn Chambers.

/s/ Willie Hampton
Chairperson

/s/Arthur Blackwell
Vice Chairperson

/s/Megan P. Norris
Commissioner

/s/Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Commissioner

/s/Erminia Ramirez
Commissioner

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 13, 2003

MOTION: **Comm.Vann** made the motion to adopt the resolution for Mr. Thompson.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings presented Mrs. Chambers with a Certificate of Recognition on behalf of the Detroit Police Department. Mrs. Chambers also received the Spirit of Detroit award on behalf of the City Council Unit.

Mrs. Chambers thanked everyone for her awards.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

This Week

Year to Date

Weekly Count of Complaints:	27	1,133
Weekly Count of Allegations:	38	2,438
Arrest	0	98
Demeanor	13	694
Entry	0	50
Force	4	215
Harassment	2	85
Procedure	10	884
Property	2	125
Search	1	91
Service	5	194

Pending Cases

As of November 12, 2003, the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) has a total of **668 pending cases**, which include **144 cases** with an age of 0-45 days, **102 cases** with an age of 46-60 days, **168 cases** with an age of 61-90 days, and **123 cases** with an age of 91-120 days, **81 cases** with an age of 121 days – 6 months, and **13 cases** with an age of 7-9 months.

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During the past week:	32	Year to Date:	977
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5. REPORT/PRESENTATION – CHIEF OF POLICE

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Board of Police Commissioners

The Detroit Police Department's mission is building a safer Detroit through community partnerships. Therefore, the following enforcement actions were conducted during the week of November 5 through November 11, 2003:

ORGANIZED CRIME AND GANG DIVISION

Conspiracy Intelligence Section – conducted three enforcement actions in the: 19900 block of Hoover, 8400 block of Plainview, E. Outer Drive & I-94 Service Drive, in the City of Detroit; one enforcement action in the City of Livonia. These enforcement actions resulted in the following arrest and confiscations:

1 felony arrest
323,160 grams of marijuana - street value \$\$1,292,640.00
\$110,000.00 in U.S. currency
3 vehicles
4 mink coats

Narcotics Enforcement Section – conducted four enforcement actions in the: 4000 block of Whitney, 8800 block of Lorman, Owen and Goodwin, Oakland and Holbrook, in the City of Detroit. These enforcement actions resulted in the following arrests and confiscations:

5 felony arrests
8 misdemeanor arrests
180.8 grams of cocaine, 66.1 grams of heroin, 4 grams of marijuana – street value \$191,332.00
\$3,047.00 in U.S. currency
4 long guns
2 handguns

Vice Section – conducted one enforcement action in the 5300 block of McDougall, in the City of Detroit. This enforcement action resulted in the following arrests and confiscations:

16 misdemeanor arrests
1 juvenile detained
20 grams of cocaine, 40 grams of marijuana – street value \$8,160.00
\$6,083.00 in U.S. currency

233 miscellaneous ordinances issued - "Loiter in Place of Illegal Occupation"
1 long gun
6 handguns
64 vehicles

THIRTEENTH PRECINCT

Due to a complaint of breaking and entering into motor vehicles, on November 8, 2003, officers of the 13th Precinct conducted surveillance in the area of Lothrop and Woodward. The officers observed a subject break the window of a vehicle

and remove items. The subject was subsequently arrested without incident and charged with "Count-1 – Break and Enter a Motor Vehicle/Damage and Count –2 Habitual 4th."

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (S.R.T.)

On November 5, 2003, S.R.T. assisted the Secret Service with the execution of a search warrant in the 6300 block of Begole, in the City of Detroit. As a result of this endeavor, one subject was arrested and charged with "Counterfeiting."

Chief of Police Ella M. Bully-Cummings

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings wished to acknowledge Inspector Arlis Clarkston who became ill the day she was appointed Chief of Police. She also introduced the new Assistant Chief of Police, Harold Cureton. She asked that all the members of her staff stand and be acknowledged. Chief Bully-Cummings thanked everyone for the phone calls, flowers, and for their show of support.

6. PRESENTATION – SIXTH PRECINCT

Cmdr. George Hall introduced his staff and welcomed everyone to the Board of Police Commissioners meeting. He also thanked Pastor Everett Jennings, New Providence Baptist Church for hosting the meeting. Cmdr. Hall gave a current status of the 6th Precinct.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Comm. Vann stated how gratified he is as a Commission to receive our new chief and all of the wonderful qualities that she brings to this position and we are really blessed in Detroit to have a woman of her caliber to lead this department with integrity, character, and with the professionalism and demeanor that she has. He stated that he is proud to be a Commissioner. He stated that this is the 5th chief that he will have served with in the six (6) years that he has been on the Commission. He wishes her the best and wanted to say that publicly because he was absent last week.

Comm. Blackwell stated that as we go out into the communities, as the Board of Police Commissioners, the civilian liaison, we have heard nothing but positive things about the Mayor of the city of Detroit, stepping up and making history. Not only because Chief Bully-Cummings is the first woman

ever to serve in that position in this great city, but more importantly the most qualified person. She was not elevated through "some quick get to the top", she served from a patrol officer all the way up. She did everything that everyone else did and excelled at every level. We are all proud of Chief Bully-Cummings and it is good that people feel good about one of their own being elevated to this very important position. The world and certainly throughout this country understanding that the Detroit Police Department which has always been considered one of the biggest and the best and now it is rising to that mantel. Chief we expect great things from you and we are here to support you.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Marie Thornton addressed a few questions from week and wished to be referred to the proper person who would be able to give a response regarding the reinstatement of PO John Bennett since the ex-police chief Jerry Oliver has stepped down and also the salary of Oliver or whether or not he is on the transition team.

Mary Little –8th Precinct resident and President of Evergreen/Lahser, 7 to 8 Mile Community Council, voiced her concerns regarding no presence of Community Policing in her community. She stated that more police presence is needed in her neighborhood where drug selling and prostitution are taking place. She also congratulated the new Chief of Police Bully-Cummings.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated to Ms. Little about the issue of the prostitutes in the area. She assured Ms. Little that the Department would be addressing it. She stated last weekend, the department had one of many to come "Offer to Engage" (OTE) operations in southwest Detroit. Assistant Chief Cureton is in charge of the entities that will be engaging in that initiative so that is something we are going to try very hard to clean up. As far as Community Policing, one of the commitments she made when she made her remarks last month was the creation of a police community services unit because we need a central location for our citizens to call for crime prevention and community policing services. Give a little bit of time and we are going to reorganize and that entity will be attached to the Training Bureau under the direction of Dr. Scott, which is where we will house many of those types of initiatives and that will provide us central repository for the community. As far as the drug infestation, we are working on that. We are engaged in various initiatives and we will be traveling throughout this city in a very concentrated effort to address that. We are going to do the best that we can and in some instances we may have to hit it more than one time but we are working towards that.

Lt. Wilson, Vice Enforcement Unit, stated that regarding all vice-related complaints, he would be happy to speak with members of the community and he assured them a speedy response to their complaints and concerns.

Comm. Blackwell stated that casinos are the only business in Detroit that pays for police officers. Everyone else is at the taxpayer's expense.

Virginia Biggs – east side resident, addressed a drug problem in the 5th Precinct area and needs assistance.

Rose Nybongo, Detroit Health Dept, wanted to address the community about children's special health care services, a state-funded program that assists children with special needs, and the program is free. The local phone number is (313) 876-0180. There is also an 800 number that is located in Lansing and is listed on the flyer.

Bernice Smith congratulated Chief Bully-Cummings on her promotion. She suggested that it would be wonderful if Chief Bully-Cummings could visit the various high schools and introduce herself. Requested that the citizens stop worrying the Commissioners about ex-chief Oliver and just move on.

Stephanie Young, manager of the Mayor's West Warren Neighborhood City Hall, welcomed the Board of Police Commissioners to the 6th Precinct area. She commended Commander George Hall and the 6th Precinct staff and what they are doing for the residents.

Unidentified female congratulated Chief Bully-Cummings on her promotion and for being a good role model for the young ladies. She represents the City Clerk's office.

Reba Hawkins, vice president of the Warren Avenue Community Organization, and also a member of the board of the 6th Precinct. She stated they are also part of the 6th Precinct.

Ronald Johnson, president of the Grandmont One Association, welcomed Chief Bully-Cummings on her promotion. He also commended Cmdr Hall and his staff for their help.

Mrs. Walters stated that time is being wasted in the bureaucratic of our city. She suggested we utilize a think tank, which represents all of our bureaucracies in this city in order to move things along so that we develop a mutual respect for what we have to have done. We are all in this together.

Mr. Craccioholo congratulated the new Chief of Police Bully-Cummings. He asked during her tenure, what did she do to alleviate some of the problems she faced and what steps will be taken by the Department to

alleviate some of the problems that the federal government has brought upon our community. How does the Chief intend to comply with the federal consent decree?

Comm. Blackwell stated to Mr. Cracchiolo why don't we ask Chief Bully-Cummings about the consent decree clearly in terms of the other questions. It is not about what she did personally in her employment of a police officer in the police department. Obviously she performed her duties amou ably or she would not be sitting here today. If you would like to sit down with the Chief, because he did not think that was appropriate in this particular setting and in this short amount of time. In terms of the consent decree, that is an appropriate issue, the Chief can respond if she likes. But to ask what somebody did personally is really not an appropriate in light of the fact that whatever she did, she did inline with her responsibilities as a police officer.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated that the question she will address is the one dealing with the mandates as a result of the consent decree. There is not much that we can do to relieve the mandates because the in result of what is being required of the police department will result in a more professional department. So we don't want to relieve ourselves of any of the mandates. One of the concerns that I have is barring any unforeseen budgetary issues; it is my pledge and my intent to ensure that the Department comes into compliance with all of the mandates and to institutionalize those practices in the Department so that we don't have to face this ever again, so that we can be looked upon by other law enforcement agencies as a model police agency.

Sandra Hines voiced her concerns by saying that citizens of Detroit should be able to ask questions that only the Chief of Police can answer. She explained about the Coalition Against Brutality and that they are not trying to disrespect the Chief of Police or the Board of Police Commissioners.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 20, 2003, @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien – Room 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/fyh